

CIGARETTE SMOKING AMONG ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES IN RHODE ISLAND

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BACKGROUND

- Cigarette smoking is the single most preventable cause of disease and death in the U.S.
- Smoking is a major risk factor for heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, and chronic lung disease.
- Research has shown that people with disabilities are more likely to smoke and less likely to quit smoking than people without disabilities.
- Health People 2010 target rate for current smoking is 12% for all groups of the population.

Study Objectives

- To estimate the prevalence of cigarette smoking in RI.
- To assess the differences in smoking prevalence by socio-demographic characteristics, including disability status.
- To determine the association between disability status and cigarette smoking, controlling for the confounders.

METHODS

❖ Data Source

2003 RI Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).
The 2003 Rhode Island BRFSS consisted of 4,053 completed interviews with response rate of 43%.

❖ Defining Smoking Status

- Current Smokers were those who smoke cigarettes everyday or some days.
- Heavy Smokers were those who smoke cigarettes 20+ a day.

❖ Defining Disability Status

- Persons with Disabilities were those who have activity limitation or using special equipment.

❖ Statistical Analysis

- Chi-square tests and multivariate logistic regression models were employed to test the association.
- All analyses were performed using SUDAAN software to account for the complex survey design.

RESULTS

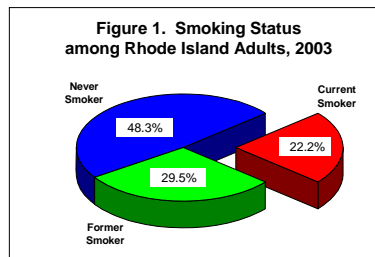


Table 1. Prevalence of Current Smoking by Selected Demographic Characteristics

	n	Percent	(95% CI ^a)
Disability*			
Have Disability	823	26.4	(22.9 - 30.3)
No Disability	3156	21.3	(19.5 - 23.1)
Age***			
18-44	1769	28.6	(25.9 - 31.3)
45-64	1391	20.7	(18.3 - 23.2)
65-74	433	11.0	(8.1 - 14.6)
75+	396	6.9	(4.6 - 10.2)
Gender (NS)			
Male	1571	23.7	(21.1 - 26.4)
Female	2469	20.9	(19.0 - 22.9)
Race/Ethnicity (NS)			
White, non-Hisp	3384	22.1	(20.5 - 23.9)
non-White or Hisp	610	21.8	(17.8 - 26.4)
Education***			
< High School	442	27.0	(22.2 - 32.5)
Hi Sch/Some College	2166	27.0	(24.7 - 29.4)
>= College Grad.	1422	12.5	(10.7 - 14.6)
Household Income***			
< \$25,000	975	26.1	(22.7 - 29.8)
\$25,000-\$49,999	1084	28.7	(25.4 - 32.2)
>= \$50,000	1440	16.7	(14.6 - 19.1)

n: Sample Size

^a CI : Confidence Interval.

* P < .05; ** P < .01; *** P < .001.

NS: Not Significant.

Table 2. Adjusted Odds Ratios (AORs) for the associations between Current smoking and independent variables

	AOR	(95% CI ^a)
Disability		
Have Disability	1.45	(1.13 - 1.87)**
No Disability	Reference	
Age		
18-44	11.69	(6.63 - 20.62)***
45-64	7.45	(4.22 - 13.13)***
65-74	2.45	(1.28 - 4.70)**
75+	Reference	
Gender		
Male	1.05	(0.85 - 1.29)
Female	Reference	
Race/Ethnicity		
White, non-Hisp	Reference	
non-White or Hisp	0.56	(0.41 - 0.78)***
Education		
< High School	3.12	(2.13 - 4.57)***
Hi Sch/Some College	2.32	(1.83 - 2.95)***
>= College Grad.	Reference	
Household Income		
< \$25,000	1.94	(1.44 - 2.63)***
\$25,000-\$49,999	1.96	(1.52 - 2.53)***
>= \$50,000	Reference	

^a CI : Confidence Interval.

* P < .05; ** P < .01; *** P < .001.

- Overall, 22.2% of Rhode Island adults were current smokers, 48.3% were nonsmokers and 29.5% were former smokers (Figure 1).
- The rate of current smoking in RI was nearly twice the Health People 2010 target rate of 12%. Persons aged 65+ were the only group that met the target (Table 1).
- Current smokers were more likely to be young adults, persons with less education, persons with low incomes, or persons with disabilities (Table 1).

- After controlling for socio-demographic factors (age, gender, race, ethnicity, education, and household income), persons with disabilities had an increased likelihood of being a current smoker (AOR=1.45, 95% CI: 1.13-1.87, P < .01) (Table 2).
- Age was the most significant predictor for current smoker status followed by education, household income, and race/ethnicity when all other factors were considered (Table 2).
- In addition, among current smokers, people with disabilities were more likely to be heavy smokers than those without disabilities (50.5% vs. 37.3%; P < .05).

CONCLUSIONS

- Adults with disabilities in Rhode Island were significantly more likely to be current and heavy smokers.
- Smoking cessation efforts should include people with disabilities as a target population in order to eliminate disparities in smoking behavior.